

# REPORT

(70)

Of the Ottawa Improvement Commission for the nine months ended March 31, 1907.

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As will be seen by the financial statement attached, the sum of \$42,618.24 was received for debentures during the period covered by this report, three more having been sold to the Bank of Ottawa. There now remains only one to be disposed of, the last of the series of sixteen issued under the Act of 1903.

The expenditure for construction was \$49,998.84, and for maintenance and repairs, \$14,135.42.

The work done was as follows:—

*King Edward Avenue*—\$690.13.

At the northern end of the avenue the sodding of the boulevard was completed and a row of elm trees planted on each side of the roadway.

*King Edward Avenue Park*—\$4,381.90.

The work done consisted in grading and finishing the walks with shale and in grading, levelling and sodding the surface of the park. A fountain composed of concrete was constructed in the middle of the park and three sets of concrete steps were placed on the avenue side of the park opposite the streets running west. Maple trees were planted at intervals along the walks, and where the walks intersected flower beds were laid out. Along the southern boundary of the park a small plantation of evergreen shrubs was made.

*Clemow Avenue*—\$76.13.

Some dead elm trees were taken out and new ones put in their place. The roadway from Concession street to Bank street was rolled.

*Monkland Avenue*—\$141.66.

The expenditure was for quarrying and breaking some stone to be used next year on the roadway.

*Rideau Canal Driveway*—\$690.13.

A part of the land just beyond the subway and lying between Pretoria and Strathcona avenues were graded, levelled and sodded. About 2,100 cubic yards of filling was deposited near the end of Mutchmore street, near the Rideau canoe club house, to raise to the proper level some low-lying ground at that place.

*Patterson's Creek Parks*—\$4,338.83.

A stone wing wall was built on each side of the bridge crossing the creek at O'Connor street. Over 1,200 lineal feet of dry stone wall, 3 feet wide on top and 7 feet high, were built around the sides of that portion of the creek reaching from Clemow avenue to the canal. The wall around the sides of the creek was backed by quarry filling drawn from the quarry on the government reserve on Bell street. The



7-8 EDWARD VII., A. 1908

bed of the creek was cleaned and the material taken out was used to fill in behind the wall.

*Strathcona Park*—\$1,826.24.

That part of the boulder wall facing the river and extending from Somerset street, to within a hundred yards of the southern end of the park, was finished, and about 1,300 lineal feet of concrete coping placed on top of the wall. The southern part of the park, reaching south from Somerset street, was graded, levelled and sodded, forming an area of about two acres to be used as a playground. The elevation at this end was terraced and the slopes sodded. A walk eight feet wide was set out around the playground and along the top of the terrace and covered with syenite screenings from the crusher. A set of concrete stairs was built in the slope of the terrace. Elms and maples were planted along the walk and edges of the playground, and a length of about 300 feet of macadamized roadway constructed.

*Somerset Street Park*—\$2,828.93.

This park, containing a little over two acres, forms the square lying between Somerset, Bay, McLaren and Lyon streets. The site was graded, levelled and covered with good soil, on which about 6,500 square yards of sodding were laid. A walk 8 feet wide was set out near the outer edges of the park running along the four sides and parallel to the streets. Two other walks extending diagonally across the square from its four corners were laid out. These walks were covered with finely broken white stone (feldspar), and form a pleasing contrast to the green sward. A circular fountain made of concrete, with an inside diameter of 24 feet, was placed in the centre of the park and the necessary connections made with the city water service. A rockery was built around the fountain and four sets of concrete steps reaching from the ground to the top of the basin were constructed. On either side of the fountain two large circular flower beds were laid out. Five sets of concrete steps, three on Lyon street and one each on Somerset and McLaren streets, were placed at points where the level of the park is above the street level. At each of the entrances to the park a concrete foundation was set in the ground to serve as a base for a large flower vase. Maple trees were planted on the border of the outer walk, and a few of the trees which were planted some years ago on the street line were removed and placed in a better location.

*Rockcliffe Park*—\$1,254.58.

A fence of iron pipe and wire, about 2,700 feet in length, was built along the road reaching from the street-car pavilion to the National Park, and opposite the street-car pavilion was placed an iron gate with a brass railing leading to it. Two summer houses and a kiosk were put up and about a dozen rustic benches of ornamental design built around the trunk of trees in different parts of the park.

It is interesting to note that when in Ottawa last spring, Prince Arthur visited Rockcliffe Park on several occasions, on one of which, April 22, 1906, in company with His Excellency Earl Grey, Mr. H. N. Bate, Chairman of the Commission, Commissioners Jos. Riopelle and C. R. Cunningham, and Dr. Wm. Saunders, Director of Dominion Experimental Farms, he planted three blue spruces. The trees are growing well and will be indicated by tablets bearing the name of the Prince and the date of planting.

*National Park*—\$33,828.72.

One mile of macadamized road, extending from the bridge near McKay's or Hemlock lake to the rifle range, was completed and on either side was laid a line of 3-inch agricultural tiles to provide proper drainage. A row of elm trees, spaced 45 feet apart, was planted along each side of the mile of roadway. Along the bank of the river several large gullies, caused by landslides in former years, were filled in,



## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 70

about 20,000 cubic yards of material being used for this purpose. Stone drains running from the south to the Ottawa river were laid at intervals across the park. These drains are 4 feet deep by 2 feet wide and have, in all, a length of about 10,000 feet. It is expected that these drains will prevent any further trouble from landslides and provide ample drainage for the park.

Some 200 toise of stone were quarried in the vicinity of the park, and half of it broken up for use on a roadway around McKay's lake, the other half being used for the drains. The ravine extending from the lake to the river, and which is thickly studded with large trees, was underbrushed and cleaned up.

*Green and Maple Island—\$631.72.*

A quantity of earth filling, &c., was deposited on the islands and some grading and levelling done.

*Maintenance—14,135.42.*

A force of labourers and sub-foremen were employed as usual in taking care of the different works. The expenditure for this service was as follows:—

Strathcona Park.. . . .	\$ 1,039 20
Rockliffe Park.. . . .	2,022 62
King Edward Avenue.. . . .	1,980 38
Somerset Street Park.. . . .	39 00
Rideau Canal Driveway.. . . .	8,888 14
Minto Bridge.. . . .	166 08
Total.. . . .	\$14,135 42

The commission learned with sincerest regret of the death of Sir William H. Hingston, which occurred on the 17th February, 1907. Sir William was appointed to the commission on June 17th, 1902, and although his public and professional duties made large demands on his time, he always took a deep interest in the commission's operations. His death is a loss not only to his fellow-members, but to the medical profession and the public life of Canada, in both of which he had attained high and honoured rank.

By the death of Mr. Robert Surtees, C.E., which occurred on the 29th September, 1906, the commission was also deprived of the service of a most capable officer. When the commission was organized in December, 1899, Mr. Surtees was appointed engineer, and, until failing health obliged him, some months before his death, to relinquish his labours, he designed all the commission's works and superintended their execution, discharging his duties in a most efficient and satisfactory manner.

H. N. BATE,  
Chairman.

STEPHEN E. O'BRIEN  
Secretary.

OTTAWA, December 11, 1907.



7-8 EDWARD VII., A. 1908

## THE OTTAWA IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures up to 31st March, 1907.

	For 9 months ending 31st Mar., '07.	Total.
<i>Receipts.</i>		
Balance on hand 1st July, 1906.. . . . .	\$ 1,750 97	
Government grant.. . . . .	45,000 00	\$465,000 00
Debentures.. . . . .	42,618 24	256,930 45
Interest.. . . . .		1,330 31
Miscellaneous.. . . . .	50 00	2,704 74
On deposit savings bank, Bank of Ottawa.. . . . .	5,000 00	
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	\$94,419 21	\$725,965 50
<i>Expenditure.</i>		
Princess Louise vista.. . . . .		\$ 5,864 14
Road, Rideau Hall grounds.. . . . .		1,053 86
City streets.. . . . .		15,512 24
Storage shed.. . . . .		2,246 52
Minto bridge.. . . . .		41,152 74
Minto bridge maintenance.. . . . .	166 08	3,725 69
Baxter property.. . . . .		5,420 73
Keefer property.. . . . .		2,350 64
Keefer & McKay lots, N.E.. . . . .	1,214 73	1,214 73
C.A.R. subway.. . . . .		13,197 24
Causeway over Dow's lake.. . . . .		24,315 85
Cartier square.. . . . .		213 34
King Edward avenue.. . . . .		92,237 39
King Edward avenue maintenance.. . . . .	1,980 38	7,308 40
King Edward avenue park.. . . . .	4,381 90	12,120 23
Rideau canal driveway maintenance.. . . . .	8,888 14	39,289 82
Rideau canal driveway.. . . . .	690 13	168,608 03
Somerset street park.. . . . .	2,828 93	3,410 74
Somerset street park maintenance.. . . . .	39 00	39 00
National park.. . . . .	33,828 72	91,247 48
Strathcona park.. . . . .	1,826 24	45,605 18
Strathcona park maintenance.. . . . .	1,039 20	1,297 97
Rockcliffe park.. . . . .	1,254 58	5,860 57
Rockcliffe park maintenance.. . . . .	2,022 62	5,832 80
Clemow avenue.. . . . .	76 13	23,013 30
Monkland avenue .. . . . .	141 66	5,653 18
Green and Maple islands.. . . . .	631 72	7,290 58
Patterson Creek parks.. . . . .	4,338 83	4,338 83
Contingencies.. . . . .	686 12	5,439 10
Office expenses.. . . . .	211 70	2,790 45
Printing and advertising.. . . . .	9 75	864 02
Syenite.. . . . .		3,514 75
Road machinery.. . . . .	95 00	11,597 38
Interest.. . . . .	528 70	1,889 63
Debentures.. . . . .	21,455 00	64,365 00
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	\$88,335 26	\$719,881 55
Balance on hand.. . . . .	6,083 95	6,083 95
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	\$94,419 21	\$725,965 50

STEPHEN E. O'BRIEN, *Secretary.*